UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode #14.

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C.S.T. APRIL 7, 1932 THURSDAY

ANNOUNCER: Here are Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers ----

(ORCHESTRA:QUARTET)

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are the men who manage and protect the national forests. Their job is to guard the forests against fire and other destructive agencies, to conserve and develop the forest resources, to see to it that these resources are wisely used, to keep the forests green and growing, so that they will be of the greatest service to the nation's welfare. Forest Ranger Jim Robbins, and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, have been up at their planting camp in the national forest all this week, setting out young trees on a burned over area. By this planting they will have put some waste land back to work growing timber crops, and at the same time increased its value for protecting and conserving water supplies and regulating streamflow.

The spring planting work has now been completed, and today we find Ranger Jim and Jerry back in Winding Creek, where they make their headquarters. We take you now to the little office of the Pine Cone Ranger Station. Bess Robbins, Ranger Jim's wife, is the only one there at the moment--

(TELEPHONE RINGS)

BESS: Hello - Hello-o-o. -- Yes, oh, how do you do, Mr. Ellsworth. -- No, Jim isn't here. Is there any message I can give him? Why, I don't know, Mr. Ellsworth; he just stepped out a few minutes ago. -- Yes, he was the one at Big Bend stock meeting, wasn't he? -- Yes, I will. I'll tell him.-- How's Mrs. Ellsworth? -- That's good. -- Oh, we're just fine, all of us. -- Oh Jerry? Yes, he's still staying with us. We like him awfully well. -- Oh, no, Mr. Ellsworth, you needn't do that. I don't mind the extra one to cook for. He's just like one of the family. He's such a nice clean-cut sort of fellow -- and so thoughtful around the house. -- Yes, -- well you don't need to worry about that. He's no trouble to me, and Jim says he's going to be the best assistant he ever had. We're glad to have him with us. Yes - Yes - well I'll tell Jim -- Goodbye,Mr. Ellsworth.

(SOUND OF HANGING UP RECEIVER)

(SOUND OF STAMPING FEET. DOOR SLAMS)

JIM: Back again, Bess. Anything going on?

BESS: Why Jim, I wish I'd known you were coming. I just this minute hung up the 'phone. The Supervisor wanted to talk to you.

JIM: Is that so? What did he want, Bess?

BESS: He just wanted to tell you that this Mr. Strause that wants to get his livestock in on the Pine Cone district, is making a fuss, since his application was disapproved.

JIM: Well, I'm afraid Strause is out of luck. There just isn't room for any more livestock, and we can't boot out any established ranchers just to make room for a newcomber. -- Does the Super want me to call him?

BESS: He wants you to investigate the ranch transfer. He said Mr. Strause has threatened to appeal and he wants to find out for sure whether Strause owns the ranch and the cattle and sheep or is just an agent for somebody else.

JIM: (chuckles) Bert's a pretty wise old head. Strause don't look or talk like a stockman. I don't believe he owns a hoof or an acre. -- Well that means a trip down to the county seat. I think I'd better do that tomorrow. You want to go along?

BESS: Oh, I don't know Jim. I was planning to do some baking tomorrow.

JIM: Better come along. (chuckles) I'll buy you a bag of fum drops.

BESS: (Laughs) If I go with you it will cost you more than a bag of gum drops.

(BOTH LAUGH)

JIM: All right Bess. -- It's a go.

BESS: Oh, another thing I was going to tell you. The Supervisor wanted to know whether I would like to have him instruct Jerry to find a boarding place in Winding Creek.

JIM: What did you tell him, Bess?

BESS: I said "no." That we enjoy having him here with us.

JIM: Good. I'd kind of miss Jerry now that we're used to having him around.

BESS: I dare say you would miss him at wood splitting time.

JIM: (Laughs) That ought to be part of every young fellow's training, -- to be able to cut wood and kindlings. -- And what about dish washing time after supper, Bess?

(BOTH LAUGH)

BESS: Well, I'm just training him for Mary Halloway -- if they ever get over that fuss of theirs.

JIM: They still seem to be on the outs, don't they? -- But you're a very able trainer, anyhow. I'll testify to that.

BESS: Oh, all the dishes <u>you</u> ever wipe, Jim Robbins would --

JIM: (Cutting in with a chuckle) Never mind that. -- Not to change the subject, I wonder what's keeping Jerry. When I left him a while ago he said he'd be coming right along.

BESS: I think I hear him coming now.

(DOOR OPENS)

JERRY: (entering, enthusiastically) Well folks, I'm all fixed up. I won't have to sponge on you any more.

BESS: Why, Jerry. What do you mean? You're not planning to move?

JERRY: Move? No.

JIM: Made friends with the school ma'm again?

JERRY: Well -- uh -- no, not exactly. -- But I'm going to have a horse of my own -- a real horse this time.

JIM: You haven't gone out and bought another one, have you?

JERRY: No. I should say not. I'm not going to let that old slicker Mike Bundy, slip any more worthless horses off on me -- or anyone else, either.

JIM: That's good, but how about this <u>new</u> horse?

JERRY: Well, I just got word from my uncle that's he's going to have a friend of his -- a rancher -- send me a saddle-horse --- a real good one, he says.

JIM: That sounds fair enough.

JERRY: It's great! -- See? There <u>is</u> a Santa Claus!

BESS: I'm so glad, Jerry. You've been wanting a horse of your own.

JERRY: I sure have. They're going to bring it up in a truck from Willow Glen in a couple of days, my uncle said.

JIM: We'll fix up a stall for him, Jerry. -- Give him the place of honor.

JERRY: Oh, at <u>least</u> that.

JIM: You're pretty lucky, young fellow. -- You're not the first young ranger that ever got taken in when he bought his first horse. (chuckles) I knew one young fellow that bought five of them before he got one he could stick on top of. He was piled off so many times he got so he'd light standing, with one foot in the air ready to climb back in the saddle. -- Well, anyway, I'm glad you're going to have a good horse soon. A good horse can be a heap of consolation to a fellow.

JERRY: I'll be needing a horse a lot this summer, won't I? -- Up in the back country and everything?

JIM: Well, I reckon it'll come in handy. For instance, if you have to run down a fire in some out-of-the-way place somebody gets careless and drops a match. -- You know, Jerry, they say that what this country needs is matches that will use their heads when their owners don't.

JERRY: "Matches that use their heads when their owners' don't." That's a good one. A match that would go right out as soon as anybody threw it where he shouldn't certainly would save this country a lot of trouble, all right.

JIM: Well, I guess the next best thing is to see if we can't get people to use their own heads, seeing as the matches don't. Eh, Jerry? People are just thoughtless, that's all.

BESS: Yes, people are so thoughtless. ----

JIM: Well, son. We've got work to do. Better get your coat off and make yourself at home.

JERRY: Okay. --- Say, I'm sure going to have a hard time waiting for my new horse to get here.

JIM: (chuckles) Yeah? -- I bet you'll be prancing up past the school house first thing, just in case the schoolma'm happens to be looking.

JERRY: (slightly huffy) No I won't.

JIM: (chuckles) No? You'd cut a pretty handsome figure, settin' on a high-stepping horse, you know, young fellow. Ought to capture the eye of the school teacher, even.

JERRY: I wish you'd lay off that subject.

JIM: Well, while we're on the subject, -- I noticed a sign in front of the meeting hall this morning saying there's going to be another dance there tonight. Music by "Tony's Wildmen" and so forth. -- Anything interesting about, that, Bess?

BESS: I should say! -- I s'pose you'll be busy tonight, though, as usual.

JIM: No. I reckon we might step over and limber up the old joints a little. We didn't make out so badly last time we went.

BESS: Oh, that'll be fine --- But what will I wear?

JIM: (chuckles) Seems to me I've heard that question before. Well, you don't look so bad in that kitchen apron, Bess.

BESS: Jim! You're hopeless.

JIM: I suppose so. -- You saw the sign about the party, too didn't you Jerry?

JERRY: Yes. I knew about it already.

JIM: Going?

JERRY: No.

BESS: Oh, you ought to go, Jerry. Don't you think you could get Mary to go with you?

JERRY: No.

BESS: Have you asked her?

JERRY: No.

JIM: Better go ahead and ask her, Jerry.

JERRY: I understand she's already going - with some city fellow from Willow Glen.

JIM: (Chuckles) City fellow, eh? Let's see -- you've been up here in the hills one--two--three months now. Beginning to feel like a native already, huh, son?

JERRY: I guess so. (embarrassed laugh) I forgot I was sort of a city fellow myself.

BESS: I wish you were going to the party, Jerry.

JIM: Better come along, son. I'll need you to help me hold Bess down. She'll probably run the legs off an old timer like me before the evening's over.

BESS: Now, Jim. You should have seen yourself at the last party. Talk about kicking up your heels! You danced with every pretty girl in the place.

JIM: (chuckles) Don't forget old Mrs. Moss. She talked me deaf in one ear while I was stepping her around. -- Well, how about it, Jerry? Better come along. -- (Slyly) I'd hate to see a mere girl run you to cover like that.

JERRY: I guess I <u>will</u> go, after all.

BESS: Oh, that's fine! I'm sure we'll all have a good time.

JIM: Well, we've got plenty to do between now and party time. Get those field notes over there Jerry. Let's get busy --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(BUZZ OF CONVERSATION)

JIM: Well, it looks like it's going to turn out to be a pretty good party, Bess.

BESS: Everybody in Winding Creek seems to be here, Jim.

JIM: The warm night brought 'em out of their holes, I guess. --- -- Say, look at all the pretty girls here perk up when they see Jerry. Here comes a whole flock of 'em, straight for him.

JERRY: They're not heading for me. It's you they're after --

(GUSH OF GIRLS' VOICES: "Oh, Mr. Robbins" - "Here's the Ranger!" -- Won't you cande the next one with me?" "How do you do, Mrs. Robbins" -- "Oh, do a stunt for us, Mr. Robbins," etc.)

JIM: (laughs) Hey now, wait a minute! -- What do you want me to do? Get out on the floor and cut a buck-and-wing for the crowd?

GIRLS' VOICES:

"Oh, fine" -- "Please, Mr. Robbins," etc.

JIM: Well, now. Bess and I have to get warmed up to this business grdual-like. I'll turn you girls over to Jerry here. (chuckles) You can't fool the old man that easy. That's what you were aiming at all along.---

GIRLS' VOICES: (moving off)

"Oh, but Robbins! " -- "Oh hello, Jerry."

"Doesn't he look nice in his uniform," etc.

JERRY: (with them ; moving off) Hello. -- Glad to see you -- (etc.)

JIM: (chuckles) That ought to keep Jerry going awhile.

BESS: (bantering) I guess you'll have to take a back seat now, won't you, Jim? With a good looking young man like Jerry here?

JIM: (chuckles) Me? Now, Bess, I never was much of a hand with the ladies.

BESS: Oh no? That's too bad. -- Oh, say, -- there's Mary Halloway sitting over there across the hall. That must be her friend from Willow Glen there with her.

JIM: Sure enough. He seems to be giving her a line of tall talk, don't he? -- (chuckles) But I notice she's keeping an eye on Jerry and the bunch of girls buzzing around him. She looks kinda worried.

VOICE: (off) Ladees and gentlemen! The next dance is agoin' t' be a free-fer-all circular. (APPLAUSE) Grab yer pardners! -- Let 'er go, Tony!

(ORCHESTRA STARTS DANCE TUNE - "TURKEY IN THE STRAW," for instance. FOLLOWING DIALOGUE CONTINUES DURING MUSIC)

JIM: Come one, Bess. Let's get in it.

BESS: I should say! Circulars are always fun!

JIM: (chuckles) Sort of like a grab bag. -- Here we go!

(PAUSE WHILE MUSIC CONTINUES) (SOUND OF WHISTLE)

VOICE: (off) All right, folks! Everybody git around in a circle --

JIM: (calls) Oh Mary. Better get in this. -- Come on, join the circle.

MARY: (coming up) All right, Mr. Robbins. I guess I will.

JIM: That's fine. Here we go!

VOICE: (off) Grand right and left, folks! Everybody right and left. -- (whistle sounds) -- all right. Grab onto yer pardners! --

JIM: Well! I drew the school ma'm after all. -- How you making out, Mary?

MARY: Oh, fine, Mr. Robbins - but --

JIM: But what?

MARY: Why -- nothing. -- I am having a wonderful time.

JIM: That's the girl. -- Who's your new boy friend?

MARY: Oh, he's not new, Mr. Robbins. I've known him for years. -- I thought he'd enjoy coming up here to one of these parties.

JIM: (chuckles) Sure. You thought seeing you here with another fellow might turn Jerry kinda green too. Now, didn't you?

MARY: Of course not. I hadn't even thought of Mr. Quick.

JIM: No? --

MARY: (Slightly piqued) He doesn't seem to be having any trouble getting girls to dance with.

JIM: Hadn't even thought of him, eh? -- (chuckles) Well, look who he drew in the last shuffle. See him over there shoving old Mrs. Moss around? (chuckles) She's sure blazing away at him with her line of gossip.

MARY: (as if bored) Oh, indeed?

(ORCHESTRA STOPS - BUZZ OF APPLAUSE AND CONVERSATION FOLLOWS)

JIM: I guess that ends it. That was fine, Mary.

MARY: Oh, I enjoyed it too, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: Well now -- You aren't just a little sore at Jerry, by any chance?

MARY: Why should I be angry with Mr. Quick?

JIM: (chuckles) You know, Mary, it's pretty bad when a young fellow like Jerry gets a nice perfumed letter from another girl. I don't suppose any other fellow his age ever got anything like that.

MARY: I don't care to discuss it, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: No, course not. We won't say nothing about it. (chuckles) But if you had asked me about it, now, Mary, I might've said it didn't seem very becomin' of you to go sulking around here all this time about a trifling matter.

MARY: (after pause) Perhaps - perhaps I was a little childish, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: Perhaps so. -- (chuckles) Well, now. Let's go resuce Jerry from the line of gossip old Mrs. Moss is blarin' at him.

MARY: Oh, Mr. Robbins! Not now!

JIM: Oh yes, come on. I'll sic the old lady on one of her neighbors and they'll set for the rest of the evening.

MARY: Well -- all right. --

JIM: Good evenin', Mrs. Moss. Haven't seen you for a long time. How about me escortin' you over there across the way? Jerry won't mind, I guess.

JERRY: Gosh! I'll say I wo -- ---- uh -- I mean - (politely) not at all, I'm sure.

JIM: (going off) Well, Mrs. Moss. How's all the neighbors -- (giggle from Mrs. Moss) --

JERRY: Hello, Mary.

MARY: Good evening, Jerry.

JERRY: (embarrassed) Uh -- nice evening, isn't it?

MARY: Yes.

JERRY: Mary -- I -- I've been wanting to tell you something all evening.

MARY: Yes, Jerry.

JERRY: But maybe -- You might not be interested.

MARY: Of course I'll be interested. What is it, Jerry?

JERRY: I'm going to have a new horse!

MARY: (disappointed) Oh.

JERRY: See? I was afraid you wouldn't be interested.

MARY: But I am, Jerry -- only --

JERRY: Only what?

MARY: Why -- uh -- nothing. Of course I'm glad you're going to have a horse, Jerry. Tell me about it.

JERRY: All right -- But -- uh -- aren't you going to dance with me this evening?

MARY: Yes, Jerry -- I'd love to.

JERRY: Gee! I guess you aren't sore at me any more then!

MARY: No, Jerry.

(ORCHESTRA STARTS DANCE TUNE)

JERRY: There's the music! Let's dance. (Going off) Gee! I feel like a million dollars --

(MUSIC UP - CONTINUES FOR SEVERAL SECONDS, THEN FADES DOWN TO BACKGROUND FOR FOLLOWING)

JIM: Did you notice the boy was dancing with Mary a minute ago, Bess?

BESS: Yes indeed. I guess they've made friends again, Jim.

JIM: Wouldn't be surprised -- Here comes Jerry now. -- (calls) Hi, Jerry. What you grinning so hard about?

JERRY: (coming up) Grinning? -- I don't know.

BESS: I'm sure I could guess. You've made up with Mary Halloway, now haven't you?

JERRY: Why yes, Mrs. Robbins. I've got everything fixed up.

BESS: What did you do?

JERRY: I ---- I don't know. I just said "See here, Mary, you've got to dance with me" ---- you know --- real firm --- and that's all there was to it.

JIM: (chuckles) That was it. I guess being firm's what did it, son. (chuckles)

(MUSIC UP FOR FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well, folks, everything's rosy tonight in Winding Creek. Our guess is that Jerry will tackle his job of looking after the national forest now with more enthusiasm than ever.

In 1891, Congress authorized the President to set aside "forest reserves," as national forest were called for some years, in order to protect the remaining timber on the public domain from destruction and to insure a regular flow of water in the streams. Today there are approximately one hundred and fifty national forests, protected and managed by the U. S. Forest Service. The Forest Service has been in existence in its present form as a part of the United States Department of Agriculture for twenty-seven years. In that time, it has built up a closely-knit and efficient organization, and a vast fund of invaluable experience in protecting and developing the timber, range, recreation, and water resources of the forests, and in coordinating their uses. Its rangers and other Forest officers have never lost sight of the ideal upon which it was founded - service in behalf of public welfare.

Next Thursday, Forest Ranger Jim and Jerry will be with us again. Tune in at this same hour. "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" is a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

The role of Ranger Jim Robbins is played by Harvey Hays. Others in today's cast were: